Changing land use of a green area to Government Offices

762. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Urban Development Ministry issued a notification changing land use of a green area to Government Office land;

(b) is so, whether it is a fact that the 22 acre Plot No. 30 in Zone D-9 will now house a Defence Research and Development Organisation office complex; and

(c) if so, what is the compulsion for this step to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The site in question, plot No. 30 is not green but it is full of permanent structures and barracks. Ministry of Urban Development has issued a gazette notification to change the use of this plot from 'Green' to 'Government Office' and in respect of plot No. 36, from 'Government Office' to 'Green'. The exchange of land use in the same complex has ensure availability of green land.

(b) Defence Research and Development Organisation complex is proposed to come up in area of 6.20 acres and not on the total area 21.28 acres of plot No. 30.

(c) Area around North and South Block is cluttered with single and double storey barracks. The ground coverage of these structures is so high that 70% to 80% of the land consists of built up area and only 30% to 20% is left as vacant. As offices of essential and important Ministries of Government of India are housed in these barracks, it is not possible to move them out to other locations.

Purchase of Sea Harrier Jets and HMS Invincible from Britain

†763. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held any talks recently with regard to purchase of 'Sea Harrier Jet' planes and aircraft carrier HMS Invincible (Ajay) from Britain;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.